

PASS THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, you know, each month, sometimes at the beginning of the month, sometimes at the end of the month, but surely during the course of the month, the American middle-class families must sit down and assess their finances, and as a result of these assessments, many new dresses and suits and weekends out and stereos and want-to-have type purchases yield to such mundane purchases as new dryers, new washing machines, automobile repairs, new roofs for the house, other type things like that.

The American middle class must do this, because their expenses cannot exceed their revenues. It is essential. It is common sense.

And now the U.S. Congress can join them in this effort. We have ignored this for too long. The last balanced budget was in 1969.

This week we can change everything by the passage of a balanced budget amendment. Let us pass it and do what middle-class America has to do each month.

A PICTURE SPEAKS A THOUSAND WORDS

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I read with great sadness and sorrow in this morning's papers that the new chairman of the Rules Committee has replaced the portrait adorning that committee's wall.

The portrait that had hung on that site was of Claude Pepper, one of the most revered and respected Members ever to serve in this institution, a man long associated with protecting the rights and dignity of senior citizens.

The portrait that replaces it, one of Howard W. Smith, a man perhaps best remembered for his obstruction in passing the country's civil rights laws. A man who in his own words "never accepted the colored race as a race of people who had equal intelligence and education and social attainments as the white people of the South."

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that a picture speaks a thousand words. I know the gentleman from New York meant no offense, meant no harm. He should change his mind. Symbols in our society are important. We do not need angels on our walls, but certainly we can do better. Mr. Chairman, please take down that picture. Take it down now.

NO TIME TO STALL

(Mr. GANSKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, this is no time to stall. For 40 years the House leadership on this side of the aisle stalled reform from Congress. For 40 years the House leadership resisted passing a balanced budget amendment. They refused to reform our welfare system. They passed unfunded mandates on to the States.

And now there are those who are trying to put off reform again. That is why they use dilatory tactics to slow the legislative process. It is why they concentrate on issues that have nothing to do with changing this Congress. They wish to stall in order to deny the American people a real chance to change business as usual.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if the last election was any indication, this is no time to stall. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to stop stalling and to start working with us to reform this Congress.

THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, passage in its current form of the House joint resolution, the balanced budget amendment, would reshape the political landscape and impact the American people in ways that have never been felt before.

To avoid that result, I urge two changes: One, that we should not punish those who have given all of their lives—the aged; we should exempt Social Security from the balanced budget calculation.

Social Security is, indeed, the contract that the older Americans have with their country. That contract should not be breached. It should not be broken. It should not be modified, particularly for those who are in the sunset of their lives who have come to realize that this is their only hope for a quality of life.

Second, Mr. Speaker, we should tell the people what we will cut and what we will not. It is undemocratic to say that we are fiscally responsible and fail to tell the people what we will do.

America wants reform, but America wants reform knowing what they are doing.

WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT TO THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in his campaign for the White House, President Clinton said that he favored tax relief for the middle class. Well, Republicans in the new Congress agree that the Federal Government taxes and spends too much and that

taxpayers should have their tax burden reduced.

Through his Reinventing Government, President Clinton also supports efforts to reduce the size of Government. Republicans in the new Congress will work with the President to achieve a smaller, efficient Government.

You see, Mr. Speaker, there really are areas of agreement. In our Contract With America, Republicans have promised to accomplish many of the things that the President says should be done. But there is one slight difference: Instead of just talking about these things, Republicans have and will continue to deliver on our promises. And, we welcome the President to our agenda of lower taxes and less government.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAD BETTER PAY ATTENTION

(Ms. WATERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker and Members, I am worried about this Congress, and the American people had better pay attention.

This Congress is rushing to pass a constitutional amendment to balance the budget, and most people do not have any idea how their lives are going to be impacted by this vote.

Did you understand the words of the Members who came before me when they talked about Social Security and the fact that it could be on the chopping block?

But let us not dwell on that, as bad as that could be. I want to talk about a children's program today. I want to talk about Head Start, that program which has proven to be an excellent program, that gives little children a head start, that gets them involved with education, that helps introduce them to books, that builds self-esteem. It is in rural communities. It is in urban communities. It is for the working class.

This is a program that could be cut, that could be eliminated.

American people, get involved and understand what is about to happen.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD READ THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. RIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the President's State of the Union Address tonight from the rostrum behind me will be a great speech. The President always gives a great speech.

But, Mr. Speaker, the President is a little late. The voters sent a clear message last November to Washington, "Clean up your act and get your fiscal house in order."